



• ROUTINE

# Intelligence Information Cable

IN 733575

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA SDO ONE CRS

EXO DDI

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[Redacted]

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and declassification

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CITE

[Redacted]

DIST 16 OCTOBER 1972

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM  
DOI LATE JULY - EARLY OCTOBER 1972  
SUBJECT STATUS OF VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR A CEASE-FIRE

ACQ VIETNAM, SAIGON (7 & 8 OCTOBER 1972)

[Redacted]

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1. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER 1972, THE STUDENTS AT THE VIETNAMESE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE HAD DIVIDED THE CEASE-FIRE CONTINGENCY PROBLEM, WHICH THEY HAD REVIEWED IN GENERAL TERMS THE WEEK PREVIOUS, INTO TEN SECTIONS, AND HAD COMMENCED WRITING A CEASE-FIRE PLAN FOR EACH SECTION. THE SECTIONS, WHICH MAY BE MODIFIED IN THE COURSE OF PREPARATION, ARE:

A. DEMONSTRATION OF THE POWER OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT (GVN) IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

B. SELECTION OF AREAS WHICH SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES AT THE TIME OF A CEASE-FIRE.

C. SUSTAINING ARMED FORCES MORALE.

D. METHODS BY WHICH NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) CAN

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BE DISTINGUISHED FROM VIET CONG (VC).

E. PRISONERS OF WAR.

F. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLAN FOR THE ACTUAL CEASE-FIRE.

G. POSSIBLE MEANS OF CONTROL OF THE CEASE-FIRE BY AN  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

H. PROCEDURE FOR THE AREA REGROUPING OF CIVILIANS.

I. PLANNING FOR ELECTIONS.

J. SOLUTION OF THE VC PROBLEM AND THE ROLE OF THE VC  
IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. IN EARLY OCTOBER THE GVN HAD NO COMPREHENSIVE CEASE-FIRE PLAN. PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN T H I E U, IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST, HAD ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A CEASE-FIRE PLAN TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN K H I E M. KHIEM, IN TURN, DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CHIEF OF THE JOINT GENERAL STAFF (JGS), GENERAL CAO VAN V I E N. VIEN ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCING A PLAN TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL VINH L O C. LIEUTENANT COLONEL NGUYEN HOA P H U O N G, A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE, WROTE THE PLAN, A SECTION OF WHICH RESULTED IN A JGS DIRECTIVE, NUMBERED

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"X-18," TO ALL UNIT COMMANDERS.

3. IN LATE AUGUST, PRESIDENTIAL PRIVATE AND PRESS SECRETARY HOANG DUC N H A, WHO SAW THE PLAN, RECEIVED PRESIDENT THIEU'S PERMISSION TO RECALL IT ON 5 SEPTEMBER. PRIME MINISTER KHIEM THEN INSTRUCTED GENERAL LOC TO REDO THE PLAN. LOC ASSIGNED COLONEL VU VAN Q U A N G, HIS DEPUTY, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRITING A CEASE-FIRE PLAN, AND AT THE SAME TIME ASSIGNED THE TASK TO THE STUDENTS AT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE AS PART OF THEIR COURSE.

4. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY (AMBASSADOR BUNKER, DEPUTY AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE, MINISTER COUNSELOR POLITICAL ONLY) USMACV (GENERAL WEYAND, MAJOR GENERAL GODDING ONLY) AT SAIGON: SENT TO CINCPAC (EXCLUSIVE FOR CINCPAC AND POLAD ONLY) PARIS (FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER AND MR. ISHAM ONLY).

CLASSIFIED BY RECORDED REPORTING OFFICER. EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF E.O. 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY

5B (2). IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE OF AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION.

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